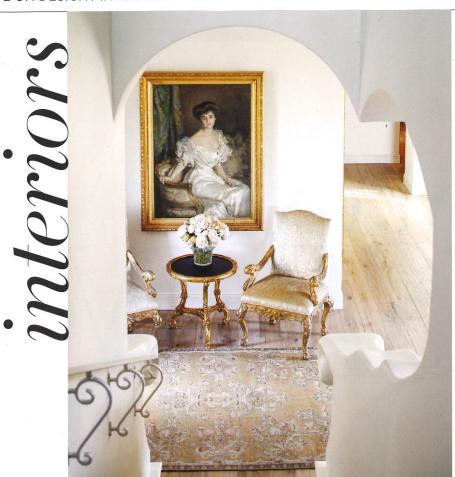




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AS PART OF OUR ANNUAL COMPENDIUM ON REGIONAL STYLE, WE'VE TURNED TO THE MOST TRUSTED NAMES IN LOCAL DESIGN TO DISCOVER TIPS, TRENDS AND IDEAS ON WHAT DRIVES DESIGN AESTHETICS TODAY.



1 A BOLD ENTRY

"An entry is like a book cover—it should tell you what's inside," says designer Anne Gale, who combined dramatic architecture with French furnishings and art to dazzling effect in the entry of a Paradise Valley home. Here, she shares her favorite strategies for making a memorable first impression. wisemanandgale.com

Entries should create drama. Frank Lloyd Wright lowered his ceilings in the entry to 7 feet to generate delight and relief when entering a living room with soaring heights. However, I prefer the high ceilings to be in the foyer to give a feeling of grand dignity.

Design a vignette that reflects your style. It's the perfect spot for artwork, meaningful photographs or perhaps a mini greenhouse with decorative plants. But please: Avoid the boring mirror-chest-and-candlesticks combo.

Convey hospitality at parties. This is the place to press the first glass of wine into your guests' hands. A silver tray with wine in a cooler surrounded by glasses makes guests immediately happy.

2 SAVVY STYLEMAKERS FIVE TOP INTERIOR TALENTS IN ARIZONA SPILL ON HOW TO DESIGN HIGH-IMPACT LIVING SPACES WITH PERSONALITY.



LISSA LEE HICKMAN

What's your splurge-worthy item? Furniture gets my vote. Buy the best-quality pieces you can afford, especially in highly used areas such as a family room. Sitting on an inexpensive, poorly made sofa every night is going to make you miserable. Design trend you're really loving right now: I'm crushing on cerusedoak woods for flooring or cabinetry. They add a touch of rustic elegance while maintaining a light and clean look, issaleehickman.com



TONY SUTTON

How important are antiques? Arizona is a collision of cultures, and a variety of ethnic antiques can be meaningful and add interest to a contemporary home. Although, it's important to keep in mind that just because it's old doesn't mean it's good. Name a vital but often-overlooked design element. I'm probably the only designer who wants a mechanical plan early on to ensure it doesn't interfere with lighting and ceiling elements. estestinc.com



KATHERINE PULLEN

Do you have a preferred color to use when designing a high-impact living space? A solid off-white neutral with warm gray undertones. One of my favorite go-to neutrals is Eider White by Sherwin-Williams. Favorite design trend: Lightening up interiors while embracing good architectural bones. We've been moving away from a heavier "Tuscan" design aesthetic to more uplifting interior palettes. studiovinteriors.com



DANA LYON

What do you feel is an often-overlooked element of design? Honoring a hero. I like to pick a special feature to highlight in a room-for example, a dramatic light fixture, the paint color or a special piece of art. Important design splurge: It's good to start at the roots of a project with a welldesigned fireplace, as it's a focal point and adds comfort to any home. therefinedgroup.com



LAURA KEHOE

Best color to use when designing a high-impact living space: We love light and airy looks and prefer a soft gray or an off-white. Dunn-Edwards Paints' Foggy Day is a favorite of mine. Is there a design trend you're really loving right now? I have always loved antique brass. It has made a wonderful comeback lately and is being used more in contemporary settings. laurakehoedesign.com